

IN-SERVICE



Summer

Volume 101

August 2007

ASCRA IS RECERTIFIED

June 20, 2007

I am pleased to announce that The Community of Christ has recertified ASCRA as an associated organization. I have posted the complete letter on the ASCRABoard yahoogroups web site. I will mail a copy to Doug, wØemx. The letter does suggest some changes in our Bylaws under the areas of Purpose (Section 7, Article II) and Dissolution (Article IX). There were no other requested or suggested changes. These changes should be considered at the next full Board meeting.

Robin Cross
wØfen

CONGRATULATIONS

to Joseph Bailey for upgrading from Tech+ to Extra class. His new call sign is KH2JK.

(Let us know when you upgrade and we will be happy to mention it.)

THE RADIO AMATEUR'S CODE

The Radio Amateur is:
CONSIDERATE... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original "Amateur's Code" was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Doug Shaw
wØemx

BURIED CONDUIT

I have heard electricians say that eventually all buried conduits fill up with either water or dirt. Even if sealed at both ends there are things such as condensation to deal with. As long as one end is outside above ground there will be temperature differences that will allow condensation to build up. If left unplugged in order to let it breathe then mice or other animals are always a problem.

Make sure the conduit is rated for direct burial. I know that NEC requires junction boxes every so often, but I don't like them. If a good quality pull string or, even better, wire is left inside after some wires are pulled, then the boxes are unnecessary. I have used a vacuum cleaner to blow or suck a cotton ball tied to a string through conduits. I believe that in one case it managed to get 250' to 300' and go past the pull boxes that were installed. Lube is almost always required with a long pull wire, and it gets messy on the feed end. I always over-estimate the wire length because I seem to always misplace my wire stretcher. Always pull all the wires at the same time. It is nearly impossible to pull additional wires through a partially filled conduit. If wires must be added, then pull all the wires out, add the new wires, and pull them all back into the conduit. When preparing the wires to pull, make sure that the end is round so it won't snag on junctions. Usually the wire likes to bend toward one side which can cause it to snag on joints and junction boxes. If necessary to install bends make sure they are sweeps and not 90 degree bends. Sweeps will allow even fiber optic cable to be pulled into conduit. I have pulled in runs of about 200' of fiber optic cable intra- and inter- buildings using sweeps. You can cut 90 degree sweeps with a hacksaw to achieve less than a 90.

With an installation far away from the house, don't forget to drive a ground rod at both the tower and the house ends of the run. All cable should be grounded or protected at both ends. The house end should also have its ground rod tied to the electrical service entrance to eliminate any voltage differentials between grounds. A #6 ground wire in the conduit would not be overkill to insure that the grounds are tied together.

Remember that braided coax is like Chinese handcuffs. It will handle an enormous amount of pull. Other wire will not handle nearly the pull. A couple of chairs with a broom handle placed strategically will allow the spools of wire to run freely as the wire is pulled.

That's all I can think of right off the bat. Experience is the best teacher. I have learned more when I had problems than when everything went smoothly.

Advice to Ernie Miles for his antenna setup in North Carolina provided by Robin Cross wØfen

SOLDER – A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE?

RoHS, what is it? Reduction of Hazardous Substances. and what does it mean? The way it is going to impact electronics is the elimination of tin/lead solder in consumer and commercial products. If you have done any plumbing at home you know that tin/lead solders has not been available for soldering copper pipes for a few years. The same thing is starting to happen in electronics. The powers that be are not fearful of you getting lead poisoning from you computer. It is what happens to the computer and all the other electronics devices that are put into the landfills with our throw away society. They are afraid that the water will eventually become tainted by the lead in the devices. It will be awhile before all of the stashes of lead based solder are gone but in commercial production and repair it will be illegal to use this type of solder very soon. All replacements melt at a higher temperature. If you do any soldering at home this will affect you. The look of all of the lead free replacements will appear to be "bad" solder joints. Without lead, the solder joints set to a rough appearance. If you remember the instructions in the Heathkit manuals, they tell you to make sure the surface looks smooth. You will never be able to get a connection to look like that.

A few of the reference Google returned on RoHS follow.

http://www.linear.com/designtools/leadfree/lead_free_program.jsp
http://wwwxt.raytheon.com/technology_today/current/feature_8.html
<http://www.era.co.uk/services/RoHS.asp>
http://www.amkor.com/services/green_packaging/index.cfm
<http://www.semiconfareast.com/pbfree.htm>
http://quality.zarlink.com/ppp_info/lead_free.htm

Robin Cross
wØfen

20 AND 40 M NET CHECK-INS

July 29, 2007

These are the check-ins recorded since May 2007. Both the 20 M net and the 40 M net are listed. Several call signs were deleted because we recorded them wrong.

The 20 M net is held 3:30PM CST, Sundays on 14.287 MHZ.
The 40 M net is held 4:30PM CST, Sundays on 7.233 MHZ.

If your call sign is not there, we would be glad to have you join us.

Ernie, WB2UJL

20 M net check-ins

NØAIX, Larry Ragan
WØDZX, Dave Atkins
WØFEN, Robin Cross
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar
WØISU, Cyclone ARC Club
NØONN, Chuck Palmer
KCØQID, Mike Wright
WAØDVU, Gary Tickemeyer
NØELM, Fred Troeh
KAØGFC, Chuck Brady
KGØII, Bob Farnham
WAØNKE, Dale Lamb Jr.
KCØSCO, Shawn McMurray
KBØYNA, Keri Washburn

WA1BHV, David Tolassi

KC2ATK, John Calhoun
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher

VK3AQN, Fred Naylor
VA3STG, Fred Lorch

KI4CPL, Anthony Wells
K4HAM, Ray Nelson
AI4QT, William Robertson
KA4RUR, Frederick Carslick
KE4VXC, Chester Allen

N5BKV, Paul Allred
W5HKY, Barbara Redding
K5LOT, Tom Shaw
KD5PXB, Glyn Janak
W5QPT, Ellis Thatcher
KB5YZZ, Richard Tiller

NJ6D, Chuck Claver
KE6GYA, Gary Schamber
WB6PLH, Paul DeGrazia

W7ASC, Club Station

N8UH, Tim Kelly
W8QK, Muirl Robinson

WD9AYR, Edwin Weinstein
KC9JQY, Colin Carter

40 M net check-ins

WØDZX, Dave Atkins
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar

K2DMG, Russell Sholey
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

W3GLH, Gary Hartman
N3VEK, John Green

K4BEG, Mike Brooks
KD4CBT, Carl Hughes
KI4JDU, Claud Ledbetter
WA4LOS, Jim Wortham

W6LMJ, Terry Redding

WF7J, Walt Loesche

K8QA, Mike Oiler
KC8ZUL, Jerry Moersdorf

KB9HFJ, Bob Osborne
K9RM, Chuck Arvo

KB1NPR, Steve Angelique

W2DIP, Vincent DiPilato
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

WA3SLN, Mike Calvert
VE3XFE, George Harbinson

W4CYF, James Bishop
K4OAN, Ron Whitmer
KG4RT, Barry Eure
KI4SAQ, George Harvey Sr.

KB5EAG, Terry Redding Jr.
N5LCL, Dave Gates
KD6OG, Jack Huffman
KD5SDL, Preston Gates
K5WRK, Ray Kirkwood
W5ZPV, Clarence Laster Jr.

KI6DCD, Charles Graham Jr.
W6LMJ, Terry Redding
W6RWH, Hale Collins

K7NCG, Jim Fish

K8QA, Mike Oiler

W9CNE, Robert Graham
W9ZSP, Larry Crabb

WØFEN, Robin Cross

KE2IL, Salvitor DiQuattro
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher

W3PF, Neal Warren

W4BXI, John Drum
W4CYF, James Bishop
N4JDU, Jeff Drew

W8QK, Muirl Robinson

KB9JLC, Ken Collard
N9US, Bill McConnell

SILENT KEY

Larry E. Neal

Larry E. Neal KØOTU, 68, Independence, MO., passed away July 18, 2007. Services were held at 2 PM on Monday, July 23, 2007, at the Carson-Speaks Chapel. Interment was at Oak Ridge Memory Gardens. Arrangements were by the Carson-Speaks Chapel.

SILENT KEY

William H. Hock

William H. Hock WBØYLI was a long time member of the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.speakschapel.com.

Bill's son, David, has indicated that a QSL shower in support of Bill's wife, Gloria, would be most welcome. Her address is:

Gloria Hock
904 Elizabeth
Independence, MO 64056

from the *Independence Examiner*, Tuesday, June 5, 2007:

William H. Hock, 85, Independence, Mo., went to be with the Lord on Saturday, June 2, 2007. Mr. Hock was born January 19, 1922, in Cairo, Ill., to Mary (Riddle) Hock and James E. Hock. William was a World War II veteran, serving from 1941 to 1945 in the United States Navy as an Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class. He was employed by Dollins Tool and Gage as a tool and die maker until his retirement in 1988. He loved to travel, fish, and camp with his wife Gloria. He was a God-fearing gentle man who served as a Priest in the East Independence Community of Christ.

William is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Gloria; one son, David and wife, Michelle; grandson, Mathew and wife, Nicole; granddaughter, Nicole Hock; a great-grandson, Logan; and his sister, Mary Elizabeth Ettinger, of Cocoa Beach, Fla.

SILENT KEY

Bob Hileman

Dear Mr. Shaw,

I was looking up my Dad's Ham radio call letters and found your list. I just wanted to inform you he passed away 2 years ago. This has already been noted by the Ham radio Associations and they retired his call letters in the archives with his name and sent us a letter to verify this. His name was Bob Hileman, 516 N 10th St., Weirton, WV 26062, and his call was WA8SSM.

If you have any questions you may contact me at boop108@suddenlink.net.

Thank you,
Betty Diaz
(from a letter to Doug Shaw waØemx)

CANCELLING A LICENSE

Dear LL Member:

About a month ago I was asked how would one cancel a ham license. In this instance a ham had lost his wife who was licensed. He was wondering how to cancel her license. I sent

a message to Allen Pitts, WIAGP, who turned it over to Maria Somma, AB1FM, who responded:

Unfortunately, the FCC doesn't "remove" call signs from their database. They do not purge the FCC database of terminated, expired or canceled licenses; these licenses remain in the database indefinitely. FCC does this for the simple reason of needing to retain a history on each license, especially since the inception of vanity call sign program.

To cancel a license of a deceased holder, FCC requires that they receive a signed written request indicating that the current licensee is now deceased (include the deceased licensee's name and call sign in the letter). Also, FCC requires that some type of evidence of death accompany the request--something that verifies that the licensee is deceased--such as a newspaper obituary, a death certificate or social-security/death-benefits documentation.

Supply this information to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245; or fax the information to FCC at (717) 338-2696. Allow FCC one to two weeks to cancel the license. Verify the FCC has canceled the license by looking up the FCC license call sign data at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>. If the license has been canceled, FCC will show the license STATUS as "CANCELED". Again, these SK licenses will not be removed from the system, the status will simply change from "Active" to "Canceled".

Hopefully this answers the question of the specific ham, and adds to the knowledge base of all of us.

73,
Larry, WØAIB

QSO NET

What is QsoNet (most of the time referred to as CQ100, the virtual radio you use)? QsoNet is not ham radio. It is virtual Ham radio that can be used by any licensed Ham regardless of class. It looks like Ham radio, works like Ham radio, acts like Ham radio, uses the same rules as Ham radio, and you have to be a licensed Ham to operate it.

As I understand it, this was set up to bring virtual Ham radio to Hams in assisted living and or housing areas that don't allow antennas and to allow Ham radio contacts when band conditions are not favorable. Modes of operation are Voice and CW.

Something to think about, our Sunday ASCRA Net would be heard consistently around the world, and can even use the same 14.287 frequency.

It is all computer with no RF and no Antenna. All you need is

1. A computer with an audio card
2. An internet connection (Dial up, dsl ,cable)
3. A microphone
4. Speakers

You will also need a copy of your Ham license in jpeg format. The web site is <http://www.qsonet.com> There is a free down loadable program and a free 90 day trial. After that it is \$32 USF per year.

Dwayne Campbell W7ABF

LARRY'S VERTICAL ANTENNA PROBLEM

Problem History:

Until recently, I used a Heathkit HW-101 as my base transmitter and a Kenwood TS-140S in my truck. I decided that I wanted to also use a mobile rig in my wife's Jeep Cherokee and the TS-140S could not be mounted in the Jeep because of the center console and floor shift. So, I decided to replace the HW-101 with the TS-140S and get a FT857D for the vehicles. It is a smaller radio with the same power and allows the control head to be detached and extended from the back of the vehicle to the front dash and requires a minimum of space.

Having completed the changes, I began to test the TS-140S with the TITAN GAP vertical antenna that I used with the HW-101. It covers all bands from 160 to 10 meters by using multiple tuning rods mounted on the antenna. Each is for a specific band and the counterpoise is for 40 meters. The TS-140S did not like the match. The power reduction circuits would kick in and give me only about a third of the specified power of the radio. I was getting an indication that the antenna was too long on all bands. My first thought was that the new gutters on my house were resonating with the antenna so I attempted to ground the gutters. This did not help. I then made sure that the tower was grounded so it was not becoming part of the antenna system.

I had only used two sections of the tower, which meant the tower was only about 24 feet tall. After doing some adjusting I tested the radio and was very happy that all bands were working fine. I put my ladder away and started to use the radio and the problem had returned. Put the ladder back and everything was fine. So I played a hunch and placed a pipe against the tower. Again everything worked and the radio was at full power again. I operated with this configuration for several months. Then my next door neighbor let me know he could hear me in the speakers on his television. So I began a project to clean up that problem.

Fixing the Problem(s):

I enlisted my son and son-in-law to help me tip over the tower so I could redesign the mounting and also do some repairs on the antenna. I was smart enough when I erected the tower that I designed a hinge using threaded pipes and elbows that would let me tip it over if needed.

The redesign involved adding about three more feet to the tower (from an old damaged tower) and then fabricating a top piece that would allow me to mount the support pipe for the vertical in the center of the tower rather than attached to one leg. When the antenna is down the counterpoise sits on top of the tower. All of the changes have given me another 8 to 10 feet of antenna height and placed it well above the roof line. When I extend it the additional two feet that I still have to go up, the counterpoise will be above the closest tree.

As part of this project I also decided to relocate the radio equipment and computer system that I use. The original location was in our bedroom on the second floor of the house. This presented a problem at night if I wanted to work radio while my wife was sleeping. So the decision was made to move everything to the family room which is at ground level.

To accomplish this, I had to reroute the coax and ground cables and move the dedicated power line (it is on its own circuit breaker) from the bedroom to the family room which is now renamed as our hobby room.

My portion is the radio and computer complex where I write Visual Basic programs, transcribe VHS tapes to DVD, and convert old 33 1/3 and 45 rpm albums to CD. My VBS program is a call logging program that is much simpler than all those I see on the WEB, and it uses the FCC database. I may write about that when it is finished.

My wife (NØAQA) also does the radio thing but she is also a Geologist and her mineral collection is her pride and joy.

All of the problems are not solved but I am making progress. I continue to work with my neighbor to eliminate or at least reduce the interference. I do not interfere with my TV or sound system except when I use the Linear and then only a weak noise. I have installed a low-pass filter on my system and will be helping the neighbor install some chokes on his cabling. He has been a CB operator (the tower I am using was his) and is very familiar with the problems associated with older entertainment systems and what can and can not be done to eliminate such problems. He is always ready to let me do any test and he will pitch in and help.

73 - Larry Ragan NØAIX, Gladstone Mo.

Email: Larry.Ragan@mccck.edu

TRAVELING TO THE CATSKILLS

Once every so often I decide it is time to take the kids on a road trip to see and experience America. For the past six years our road trips have been associated with the time just before, or after Spectacular at Graceland. This year, one of our older daughters wanted to have a family vacation with as many siblings, godchildren and grandchildren as we could muster - in the Catskills of New York. By the time all the planning was done, the only time frame that would work was during the period of time we would normally be traveling to Spectacular at Graceland.

Thus, this year, for the first time in five years, I was unable to conduct an amateur radio licensing class with Bob Farnham.

Camping in the Catskills is what is known as "dry" camping. That is to say, there is no electricity, water, or hookups for a trailer. In preparation I added a second battery to our travel trailer and a small light 3KW generator, mounted on a rack connected to the rear bumper. This provided plenty of power for charging batteries, operating the lights and pumps, and allowed us to even run the AC in the trailer in a pinch should the weather prove to be too warm.

The first ASCRA net of the journey I checked into from Easton, Maryland sitting in my son in-law's driveway. He and I built the rack for the generator using the simplest design I could conceive of.

Here are two photographs of the generator installation and vertical antenna on the trailer before leaving Easton, Maryland. I cleverly hid the generator under a weber grill cover - not wanting to tempt someone. The vertical antenna provides 80-6 meter operation with no tuning. It has proved to be an adequate antenna - and so very simple to setup

Terry Redding - W6LMJ

ASCRA BOARD NOMINATIONS

It is time to submit nominations to the ASCRA Board of Directors for the 2008-2009 term. A maximum of six (6) nominations may be submitted by each member to be received no later than Monday, October 1, 2007.

The following directors are serving for the 2008-2009 term and are not eligible for nomination at this time.

Robin Cross, WØFEN, Kansas City, MO
Michael Hahn, KGØXU, Independence, MO
Ernie Miles, WB2UJL, Durham, NC
Chuck Palmer, NØONN, Independence, MO
Barbara Redding, W5HKY, West Palm Beach, FL
Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, Raytown, MO

All other licensed ASCRA members are eligible for nomination, including the following six directors whose terms expire in the Spring of 2008.

David Gates, N5LCL, Newcastle, OK
Mike Oiler, K8QA, Liberty, MO
Terry Redding, W6LMJ, West Palm Beach, FL
Muir Robinson, W8QK, Bald Knob, AR
Tom Thatcher, W2TFT, Shawano, WI
Fred Troeh, NØELM, Maricopa, AZ

Please verify with your nominees that they are willing to serve before you submit their names in nomination. Service as a director may entail travel to Independence, Missouri, or attendance by conference call, for at least one annual directors' meeting. It is also very helpful if all nominees have E-mail capability, but should not be considered a requirement for nomination or serving.

Only one nomination is required to place a willing nominee on the ballot. Each ASCRA member submitting nominations should clearly identify who is making the nomination, such as enclosing a separate piece of paper or sending a separate E-mail. Submit nominations by postal mail to:

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX
ASCRA Secretary
P.O. Box 73
Independence, MO 64051

Or by E-mail to wa0emx@arrl.net.

Since ASCRA asks no dues of its members, it is dependent on your donations to cover minimal operating expenses. Please consider including a donation when you submit your nominations by postal mail. Any questions about the nomination process may be directed to the ASCRA Secretary.

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX
ASCRA Secretary

If you have any changes for the database
(upgrades, new post office or e-mail
addresses, phone numbers, etc.),
please send them to
ftroeh@peoplepc.com or mail them to:

Fred Troeh
42457 W North Star Dr
Maricopa AZ 85238

IN-SERVICE

Publication of
the Association of Saints Church Radio
Amateurs

Send comments, suggestions,
and material for future issues to:

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